

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are all of the pending claims, with claims 1, 10 and 11 being independent claims. By this Amendment claims 1, 10 and 11 are amended. No new matter is added.

I. Telephone Interview:

A telephone interview was conducted between Applicants' representative and Examiner Ewald on August 1, 2007. During the telephone interview the subject matter of the present application and the applied references was discussed and an agreement was reached as to the structural configuration represented in the present application and the applied references. Proposed claim amendments were also discussed including the amendment to independent claim 1 as provided in this Amendment filed with a Request for Continued Examination. After comparing the proposed Amendment to the applied references, the Examiner indicated that she felt that such an Amendment would structurally distinguish over the applied references. Accordingly, the amendments as discussed in the telephone interview place the application in condition for allowance.

II. Allowable Subject Matter:

Claims 10 and 11 are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. As claims 10 and 11 are rewritten in independent form, claims 10 and 11 are in condition for allowance. The remaining pending claims are allowable for the reasons discussed in detail below.

III. Claim Rejections on Prior Art Grounds:

The Examiner rejects claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8 and 9 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by US 4,624,855 to Haas, Sr. et al. ("Haas '855"); claim 4 under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Haas '855 in view of US 6,227,103 to Haas, Sen. et al. ("Haas '103"); and claim 7 under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Haas '855 in view of US 1,720,304 to C. R. Taylor ("Taylor"). Applicants traverse the rejections in view of the following remarks.

A. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Independent claim 1 defines (among other things) supporting means that push “on at least three points that are spaced apart from the cavity, an outer periphery of a part of the convex half protruding from the concave half onto the axis.” As discussed during the telephone interview, an example, non-limiting embodiment of this feature will be appreciated with reference to Figs. 1 and 4. The supporting means (inclusive of the toggle jointed link 30 and the rolling members 31) push on an outer periphery of a part 23 of the convex half 20 that protrudes from the concave half 10. The supporting means push the convex half 20 onto the axis of the concave half 10. The rollers 31 make contact at least at three points that are spaced apart from the cavity 50. At least this feature (as recited in independent claim 1), in combination with the other features recited in independent claim 1, is not taught or suggested by the prior art relied upon by the Examiner.

The Examiner relies upon Haas ‘885 to teach each and every feature of the invention defined by claim 1. In so doing, the Examiner compares the sizing device 9 of the reference to the “supporting means” defined by claim 1.

However, with reference to Fig. 2 of Haas ‘885, as discussed during the telephone interview, the disclosed device includes a winding mold 3, and a winding core 8 mounted on a shaft 7 that is moveable to position the winding core 8 inside winding mold 3. The sizing device 9 is mounted for movement on the shaft 7. The sizing device 9 includes a carrier 13 with a plurality of fingers 12, and a backing disc 14 that is engageable with the winding mold 3. The backing disc 14 includes slots 15 through which the fingers 12 extend.

Thus, in contrast to the subject matter described in the amended claims, the pressure applying fingers 12 are not spaced apart from the cavity formed by the winding core 8 and the winding mold 3. Rather, the fingers 12 penetrate inside of the cavity as clearly shown in Figs. 2 and 3 of Haas ‘855. Thus, as discussed during the personal interview, the amended claims structurally distinguish over the applied reference. As such, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

B. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4 and 7 are allowable for their dependency on independent claim 1 for the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features recited therein. Further, as neither Haas '103, nor Taylor, overcome the deficiencies of Haas '855, the combination of references whether considered alone or in combination fail to render claims 4 and 7 obvious. Accordingly, withdrawal of rejections is respectfully requested.

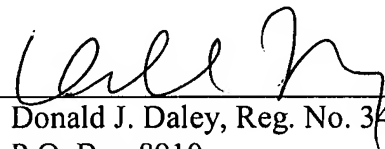
CONCLUSION

Applicants earnestly solicit reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims.

The Commissioner is authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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